

From: EPA News [noreply@cision.com]
Sent: 10/8/2021 12:30:08 PM
To: Harris, Michael [harris.michael@epa.gov]
Subject: EPA Chicago - Daily Media Report - Friday, October 8, 2021

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Report Overview:

Total Clips (24)
















Air - Quality (1)

Cleanup - Superfund (2)


Grants (2)

Waste – Solid Waste Management (1)

Water - Surface (18)

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Air - Quality (1)				
 Wisconsin DNR reports state's air quality is 'improving'	10/07/2021	WSAW-TV Online	WI	  
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Cleanup - Superfund (2)				
 Chicago EPA office to be led by Evanston politician Debra Shore	10/07/2021	Chicago Sun-Times Online	IL	  
 Uniontown-area greenhouse property site of EPA cleanup	10/06/2021	Repository Online	OH	  
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 EPA Expects \$21.7 Million Available for Rural, Small Water Systems	10/07/2021	South Dakota Ag Connection	WI	  
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Waste – Solid Waste Management (1)				
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Water - Surface (18)

	High lead levels force Benton Harbor residents to rely on bottled water	10/08/2021	WOOD-TV Online	MI	 
	Benton Harbor experiencing early stages of a water crisis	10/07/2021	WJRT-TV Online	MI	 
	City in Michigan urged to use bottled water due to lead risk	10/07/2021	Leader-Telegram Online	WI	 
	City in Michigan urged to use bottled water due to lead risk	10/07/2021	WXMI-TV Online	MI	 
	City in Michigan urged to use bottled water due to lead risk	10/07/2021	WEWS-TV Online	OH	 
	City in Michigan Urged to Use Bottled Water Due to Lead Risk	10/07/2021	Manufacturing.Net	WI	 
	City in Michigan urged to use bottled water due to lead risk	10/07/2021	Grand Rapids Business Journal Online	MI	 
	City in Michigan Urged to Use Bottled Water Due to Lead Risk	10/07/2021	Manufacturing Business Technology	WI	 
	City in Michigan urged to use bottled water due to lead risk	10/07/2021	WGVU News	MI	 
	City in Michigan Urged to Use Bottled Water Due to Lead Risk	10/07/2021	Design & Development Today	WI	 
	City in Michigan Urged to Use Bottled Water Due to Lead Risk	10/07/2021	Food Manufacturing Online	WI	 
	City in Michigan Urged to Use Bottled Water Due to Lead Risk	10/07/2021	IEN - Industrial Equipment News Online	WI	 
	State urges Benton Harbor	10/07/2021	Detroit News, The	MI	

	to use bottled water; Alert marks rising fear 3 years after high lead levels 1st found SW Michigan city's lead levels prompt health warnings, state urges residents to use only bottled water	10/07/2021	WJBK-TV Online	MI	  
	City seeks permit for new wells	10/06/2021	Republic, The	IN	 
	EPA to assist Benton Harbor on lowering lead levels in water	10/06/2021	Herald-Palladium, The	MI	 
	State Expanding Bottled Water Availability In Benton Harbor	10/06/2021	Moody on the Market	MI	  
	State provides more bottled water to Benton Harbor residents	10/06/2021	WNEM-TV Online	MI	  

News Headline: Wisconsin DNR reports state's air quality is 'improving' |  



News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: WSAW-TV Online

Outlet State: WI

News Text: ...pollutants throughout the state. "Based on extensive health studies, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) establishes...

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News Headline: Chicago EPA office to be led by Evanston politician Debra Shore |  



News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: Chicago Sun-Times Online

Outlet State: IL

News Text: ...enforcer, tackling thousands of air, water and land pollution issues in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota,...

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News Headline: Uniontown-area greenhouse property site of EPA cleanup |  

News Date: 10/06/2021

Outlet Full Name: Repository Online

Outlet State: OH

News Text: ...residences," said Andrew Kocher, on-scene coordinator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 5. What is the...

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News Headline: EPA Expects \$21.7 Million Available for Rural, Small Water Systems | 

News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: North Dakota Ag Connection

Outlet State: WI

News Text: ...Small Water Systems North Dakota Ag Connection - 10/07/2021 The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it...

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News Headline: EPA Expects \$21.7 Million Available for Rural, Small Water Systems | 

News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: South Dakota Ag Connection

Outlet State: WI

News Text: ...Small Water Systems South Dakota Ag Connection - 10/07/2021 The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it...

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News Headline: Sewage released into Lake Mohawk | 

News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: Alliance Review, The

Outlet State: OH

News Text: The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has sent a notice of violation to Ralph Castellucci, director of the Carroll County Environmental Services.

The notice stated that on Sept. 19 and Sept. 20, the Ohio EPA received complaints that alleged Carroll County Environmental Services had pumped untreated wastewater from its sanitary sewer lift station, located south of 373 West Mohawk Drive, into a catch basin on West Mohawk Drive that outfalls into an unnamed tributary to Lake Mohawk, which flows approximately 370 feet south and discharges into Lake Mohawk.

Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, conducted a comprehensive desktop compliance review of the BTM Sewer District on Sept. 20. The goal of the review was to determine the validity of the complaints received and to determine the facility's compliance with Ohio's environmental laws and regulations.

Ohio EPA, DSW found the following violation of Ohio's environmental laws and regulations and the facility's NPDES permit terms and conditions:

1) ORC 6111.04 (A)(1) - No person shall cause pollution or place or cause to be placed any sewage, sludge, sludge materials, industrial waste, or other wastes in a location where they cause pollution or any waters of the state.

2) ORC 6111.07 (A) - No person shall violate or fail to perform any duty imposed by sections 6111.01 to 6111.08 of the Revised Code or violate any order, rule, or term or condition of a permit issued or adopted by the director of environmental protection pursuant to those sections. Each day of violation is a separate offense.

A) Violation Description - The facility pumped untreated wastewater from its sanitary sewer lift station into 'waters of the state'.

B) Additional Information: The primary pump that served the sanitary sewer lift station had failed. The secondary pump that served the sanitary sewer lift station had previously been removed for maintenance. CCES pumped approximately 8,000 gallons of wastewater into 'waters of the state' to allow pump installation and repairs to be implemented within the sanitary sewer lift station.

C) Requested Action: The Ohio EPA requests Castellucci submit an operation and maintenance plan that details how the facility will prevent future unauthorized discharges from the lift stations located within its sewerage collection system.

Castellucci has 30 days to respond.

Commissioners get involved

Castellucci; Kelly Engelhart, Carroll County health commissioner; Amy Campbell, Health Department office administrator; and Tom Cottis, Emergency Management Agency director, met with the Carroll County commissioners on Sept. 27 to discuss the events of the sewer pump failure that took place at Lake Mohawk.

Commissioner Robert Wirkner stated there have been allegations of deliberate dumping of sewage, and he asked Castellucci to give a brief overview of the events of that day.

Castellucci explained there was a major pump failure that created a sanitary sewer overflow. Personnel were called to the lake to work on the system and they ran into some issues.

Castellucci explained the pump station was overflowing that day, and his department needed to mitigate the situation quickly. Some pumping was done into the ditch and ended up in Lake Mohawk, but the situation had to be mitigated to the best available practices.

Castellucci advised this was a very unfortunate incident, and he and his staff would never do anything that would jeopardize the health and safety of residents. He noted there has not been an incident like this in at least 20 years.

Cottis stated the EPA was in constant contact with his agency after they were called by a private resident.

Engelhart stated that sampling of water in four different locations was performed at the lake on Sept. 21. Two samples were taken at the site of the sewage discharge, and two samples were collected at the nearest bathing beach from the discharge.

The initial samples came back elevated above the advisory level that the Ohio Department of Health indicates, which is 235 cubic fecal forming units. The testing is for fecal coliform and E. Coli.

The health department repeated testing on Sept. 23, and the levels were down to 60 and 80. The levels remained high at the bathing beach at levels of 840 and 1,020.

Engelhart communicated these results to Lake Mohawk Manager Scott Noble.

Engelhart noted that according to the health department, the sewage discharge is no longer creating any issue for them to have an advisory related to the sewer spill.



The health department staff indicated during the collection of samples that there were several geese on the bathing beach, and they are of the opinion that the levels are related to the fecal content coming from the geese into the water.

Wirkner stated it was his understanding that the volume of overflow was just too great, and even if the vac truck had been more timely arriving on scene, the capacity was simply inadequate. Castellucci agreed.

Commissioner Jeffrey Ohler will coordinate with Castellucci and review the events that took place to see if any other actions should have been taken.

Ohler has a request to have a meeting with Scott Noble and LMPOA President Jack Beuttner to discuss the sewer system. The system is approximately 50 years old and with the number of houses increasing, the system is being taxed more today than in the past. Ohler will check into possibly using the federal CARES money for infrastructure upgrades as water and sewer infrastructure are items that are on the approved use of funds list.

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News Headline: High lead levels force Benton Harbor residents to rely on bottled water |  

News Date: 10/08/2021

Outlet Full Name: WOOD-TV Online

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...the 888 lead service lines back in 2019 with help from a \$5.6 million Environmental Protection Agency grant and another \$10...

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News Headline: Benton Harbor experiencing early stages of a water crisis |  



News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: WJRT-TV Online

Outlet State: MI

News Text: BENTON HARBOR, Mich. (WJRT) - Another Michigan community is in the early stages of a water crisis. The state of Michigan is...

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News Headline: City in Michigan urged to use bottled water due to lead risk |  



News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: Leader-Telegram Online

Outlet State: WI

News Text: ...have been given to more than 2,600 homes, the department said. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it's evaluating...

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News Headline: City in Michigan urged to use bottled water due to lead risk |  



News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: WXMI-TV Online

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...had discovered high levels of lead in the blood of children. In 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency declared Flint an...

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News Headline: City in Michigan urged to use bottled water due to lead risk |  



News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: WEWS-TV Online

Outlet State: OH

News Text: ...had discovered high levels of lead in the blood of children. In 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency declared Flint an...

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News Headline: City in Michigan Urged to Use Bottled Water Due to Lead Risk |  



News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: Manufacturing.Net

Outlet State: WI

News Text: ...have been given to more than 2,600 homes, the department said. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it's evaluating...

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News Headline: City in Michigan urged to use bottled water due to lead risk |  



News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: Grand Rapids Business Journal Online

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...have been given to more than 2,600 homes, the department said. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it's evaluating...

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News Headline: City in Michigan Urged to Use Bottled Water Due to Lead Risk |  



News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: Manufacturing Business Technology

Outlet State: WI

News Text: ...have been given to more than 2,600 homes, the department said. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it's evaluating...

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News Headline: City in Michigan urged to use bottled water due to lead risk |  



News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: WGVU News

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...have been given to more than 2,600 homes, the department said. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it's evaluating...

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News Headline: City in Michigan Urged to Use Bottled Water Due to Lead Risk |  


News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: Design & Development Today

Outlet State: WI

News Text: ...have been given to more than 2,600 homes, the department said. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it's evaluating...

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News Headline: City in Michigan Urged to Use Bottled Water Due to Lead Risk | 


News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: Food Manufacturing Online

Outlet State: WI

News Text: ...have been given to more than 2,600 homes, the department said. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it's evaluating...

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News Headline: City in Michigan Urged to Use Bottled Water Due to Lead Risk | 


News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: IEN - Industrial Equipment News Online

Outlet State: WI

News Text: ...have been given to more than 2,600 homes, the department said. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it's evaluating...

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News Headline: State urges Benton Harbor to use bottled water; Alert marks rising fear 3 years after high lead levels 1st found | 

News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: Detroit News, The

Outlet State: MI

News Text: "Community groups have been asking for the state to come up with this type of response for years now."

Cyndi Roper of the National Resources Defense Council

Benton Harbor residents were strongly urged Wednesday by the state to drink and cook with bottled water as the state officials seek to fend off criticism that they hadn't done enough to respond to three straight years of elevated lead levels in the city.

The move by the state Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy came nearly a week after EGLE officials began to make bottled water available to residents in the southwest Michigan city under pressure from environmental and activist groups.

"We've listened to the community's concerns and out of an abundance of caution, we are recommending that residents use bottled water for cooking, drinking and brushing teeth," Michigan Health and Human Services Director Elizabeth Hertel said in a statement.

Bottled water should also be used for showering or bathing, for washing hands, dishes, clothes and for cleaning, officials said.

In recent sampling periods, lead levels have been even higher than in the initial lead exceedance in fall 2018, the first year of the violation to the state's stringent lead and copper rule. That year, eight homes tested above 15 parts per billion and the highest was 60 ppb. In 2021, 11 homes tested above 15 ppb with the highest coming in at 889 ppb.

Benton Harbor becomes the second major Michigan city to move to bottled water at the urgency of the state. Flint endured a water crisis that briefly received national attention roughly five years ago after homes there showed excessive lead levels after its water wasn't properly treated with corrosion controls following a switch to corrosive Flint River water. At one point, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found lead levels as high as 13,000 parts per billion there.

For three straight years, Benton Harbor's water sampling for lead has exceeded state limits and the amounts of lead found in Flint before it became engulfed in its crisis in 2015. It is also longer than when Parchment, near Kalamazoo, had two consecutive years of excessive lead levels before its lead pipes were replaced in 2020.

Last month, the EPA received a scathing emergency petition from environmental groups lambasting EGLE and the city of Benton Harbor for failing to provide residents with safe drinking water such a bottled water after the three straight years of lead exceedances.

In addition to the water distribution, EGLE officials have agreed to better educate residents about how to use water filters after criticism that the process didn't inform them on how to properly install the filters. The petition was filed in September by groups including the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center, the Benton Harbor Community Water Council and other organizations.

The decision by state officials "is a step in the right direction," said Cyndi Roper, the senior policy advocate for the National Resources Defense Council. But it should have come much earlier after many warnings about how unsafe the lead-tainted water has been, she said.

"The community groups have been asking for the state to come up with this type of response for years now," Roper said. "There's still a lot of details to that need to be worked out with the community. But again, we need to be sure that communities are listened to when they bring these issues forward and that we are believing them."

So far, state officials say they have delivered more than 4,500 cases of bottled water and filters through a local-state partnership. They expect another 15,500 cases to be distributed soon to the mostly low-income city of nearly 10,000 residents, most of whom are Black.

Benton Harbor Mayor Marcus Muhammad said he's been working with the state and county officials to help "resolve the problem for the short, long term and immediate" and is "pleased to see them stepping in."

"In the immediate, there's a saying where a good firefighter would rather respond to 10 false calls and not respond and miss one," Muhammad said. "Every household is being treated as if lead is in the house. So that's why the alert came out to bottled water for certain things."

Benton Harbor resident George Dixon has mostly dodged the lead in the city's water system. He and his family have been buying water in bottles and jugs for years.

"I always drank bottled water," said Dixon, 33. "I always have, even before this crisis."

But it can be a struggle to get enough bottled water, which Dixon estimates costs his family \$100 a month.

Since warnings of elevated lead levels in the city's water supply, other Benton Harbor residents have been taking on the same expense. Dixon is a barber and said his customers wish they had access to clean water.

"They spend money on bottled water," said Dixon, who talks about the water supply with customers who come visit him at KingsMen Cuts. "More money than they should have to."

Dixon said the city, state or federal government should make water and filters easier to find.

"Their focus should be more on the health and the concern of the kids," he said.

State officials said the EPA is conducting a filter effectiveness study to gather data and provide confidence in the effectiveness of water filters to reduce lead in drinking water. The free bottled water will be provided as long as needed, they said.

The state last month said it would go door-to-door to distribute filters and show people how to install them. But in its latest statement, the state officials said the federal government is studying how effective the filters are in reducing

lead in drinking water.

Meanwhile, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer last month announced a plan to remove the estimated 2,400 or more lead pipes in Benton Harbor within five years. Environmental groups and others said it can be done faster. EGLE said that lead pipes are a major reason for lead in the water but environmental groups said corrosion control has failed as well.

In the \$70 billion budget that Whitmer recently signed into law, \$10 million was earmarked for use in replacing lead service lines in Benton Harbor. It was a reduction from the \$20 million that the governor initially sought.

Another \$15 million would be added to a fund to help the state address drinking water emergencies.

Staff Writer Carol Thompson contributed.

Thompson: Biden should have visited Benton Harbor. 1C

"Community groups have been asking for the state to come up with this type of response for years now."

Cyndi Roper of the National Resources Defense Council

Benton Harbor water distribution

When: 4-6 p.m. Thursday

Where: Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency, 331 Miller


When: 2-6 p.m. Friday

Where: God's Household of Faith, 275 Pipestone

Additional dates and locations for bottled water pick-up will be posted at Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe.

Residents who are unable to pick up water or require water delivery can call 800-815-5485 to schedule drop-offs.

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News Headline: SW Michigan city's lead levels prompt health warnings, state urges residents to use only bottled water | 

News Date: 10/07/2021

Outlet Full Name: WJBK-TV Online

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ...have been given to more than 2,600 homes, the department said. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said it's evaluating...

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News Headline: City seeks permit for new wells | 

News Date: 10/06/2021

Outlet Full Name: Republic, The

Outlet State: IN

News Text: Columbus City Utilities is preparing to add four new water wells to its well field.

According to a notice from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), the city has submitted construction permits for projects described as "Well 20, 21, 22, & 23 - WATER MAIN & WELL" and "Well No. 20, 21, 22, & 23." Utilities engineer Ashley Getz said that these are for the same project.

Comments on these applications must be postmarked no later than Oct. 28 and Oct. 29, respectively, to be considered in IDEM's decision. Comments most likely to affect the verdict are those based on rules and laws governing the process.

Wellfield improvements are a priority for the utility, according to a list of projects on its website. The project description includes constructing wells 20-23 within the South Wellfield and raw water mains to increase supply capacity to Water Treatment Plant No. 2.

"The current well capacity is lower than the water treatment capacity of Water Treatment Plant No. 2," according to the application. "The new wells are needed to maintain public water supply during peak demand times in summer months now and in the future. The need for the new wells was identified in the Utility Master Plan."

The estimated cost of this project is about \$2.95 million. Getz said that utilities officials are still determining if it would be more cost-effective to use a State Revolving Fund loan or private bond as the funding source. The project is among those made possible by the recent water rate increase approved for the city.

The anticipated schedule for construction is April to November of 2022. Strand Associates, Inc. has been contracted for the project design.

Getz said that these are additional wells for capacity, rather than replacements for two wells shut down in recent years.

In October of 2017, two wells â€” No. 14 and No. 15 â€” in the South Wellfield were shut down due to the detection of 1,4 dioxane, which is considered "a likely human carcinogen" by federal environmental regulators.

Columbus is one of several Indiana cities that tested above the .35 parts per billion Environmental Protection Agency recommended limit for the industrial solvent, testing at .48 parts per billion in the city water system in 2013.

The city has not replaced the two wells, according to Getz.

"We've not really decided what to do with those," she said. She added that even aside from the shutdown of the two wells, there was a need for more capacity.

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News Headline: EPA to assist Benton Harbor on lowering lead levels in water | 

News Date: 10/06/2021

Outlet Full Name: Herald-Palladium, The

Outlet State: MI

News Text: BENTON HARBOR â€” The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Tuesday it plans to assist Benton Harbor in an effort to help address lead levels in the city's drinking water.

The federal agency announced staff from its headquarters and Region 5 office have mobilized and will work with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Berrien County Health Department, the city of Benton Harbor and various community groups.

"The agency is deploying staff as appropriate to speak with Benton Harbor residents and help ensure that residents are aware of the issues and are receiving needed assistance," an EPA spokesperson stated in a news release. "The agency will continue to be involved to support and monitor the effectiveness of the immediate interventions and development of long-term solutions in Benton Harbor."

Benton Harbor has been required to test its drinking water every six months since October 2018, when routine testing found that the amount of lead in the drinking water of sampled homes exceeded the action level of 15 parts per billion (ppb).

Legislators recently earmarked \$10 million in the state's budget to go toward replacing lead service lines in Benton Harbor's water system.

The city has about 6,000 of the estimated 420,000 lead service lines throughout the state. City officials have said it will cost roughly \$30 million to replace all of them.

The EPA stated Tuesday it will provide support and oversight of the state's actions, including the delivery of bottled water to ensure an expeditious response to the pressing water issues in Benton Harbor.

Tuesday's announcement comes nearly a month after two dozen organizations filed a petition to the EPA for emergency action under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

The 35-page petition states that residents "continue to live with significant and dangerous levels of lead contamination three years after the contamination was first discovered with no immediate solution in sight."

The petition, which was submitted in early September, listed several action steps that needed to be taken.



They included that residents be given technical and financial resources so they have a free source of safe drinking water and that the EPA make grants available to the city to assist in getting safe drinking water to residents.

City officials have repeatedly said the water leaving the city's water plant has no lead in it, meaning the lead is coming from water service lines or from the plumbing inside residential houses.

Municipalities have historically only been required to replace lead water lines up to the property line of a residence. As of Jan. 1, municipalities are required to pay to replace the lead service lines up to a few inches within the house.

Lead is considered a toxic metal that is harmful to human health, even at low exposure levels. According to the EPA, lead can cause irreversible and life-long health effects, especially to children.

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News Headline: State Expanding Bottled Water Availability In Benton Harbor |  

News Date: 10/06/2021

Outlet Full Name: Moody on the Market

Outlet State: MI

News Text: The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has announced the state will provide bottled water to residents of Benton Harbor as work...

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News Headline: State provides more bottled water to Benton Harbor residents |  

News Date: 10/06/2021

Outlet Full Name: WNEM-TV Online

Outlet State: MI

News Text: Michigan is bringing more free bottled water to Benton Harbor residents. The state is also recommending an abundance of caution as efforts...

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